

# Bulletin

NOVEMBER 4, 1948

HESHVAN 2. 5708

## Book Fair Will Open In Vestry, Nov. 15th

Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, Chairman of the Book Fair, sponsored by the Parents' Association in conjunction with the Sisterhood of the Park Avenue Synagogue, has announced that this event will be held in the Vestry of the Synagogue from November 15th through November 17th. Current best sellers as well as Jewish books and records will be offered for sale. Books to suit adults as well as children will be on display.

The Parents' Association is interested in enlarging and improving the Park Avenue Synagogue's library. The purchase of books through the Book Fair will enable them to fulfill this wish, in that a rebate on each book purchased will accrue to the Committee.

A three-day program has been planned. On Monday, November 15th there will be a Mothers' Tea at 2:30 p.m., while all the children are invited to join their mothers at the Fair after School. Mrs. Dorothy Gellert will be hostess for this day. Mr. Herbert Kruchman will give a "Chalk Talk" to the children at 4 o'clock that afternoon.

On Tuesday, November 16th, the Sisterhood will hold its meeting which will highlight the Book Fair. Rabbi Milton Steinberg will be the guest speaker. His topic will be "People and Books—Four Relations, Four Books."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Rabbi Steinberg To Speak Nov. 5th; Late Friday Evening Services Resumed

The resumption of late Friday evening services following the end of the New Year holiday cycle will take place on November 5th at 8:30 p.m., at which time Rabbi Milton Steinberg will speak on "The Dilemma of the Liberal—Lessons from the Recent Election."

## Junior Congregation Attendance Urged

Children of the Synagogue are again reminded that Junior Congregation meets regularly for worship on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. under the guidance of Mr. Sanford Hahn. The services are conducted for children of all ages and not, as is mistakenly believed, for those of *Bar Mitzvah* or Confirmation age. On Sunday, October 31st a model service was presented at the Sunday School assembly.

As parents are aware, the Junior Congregation High Holy Day services under Mr. Hahn's direction were of a high caliber and of considerable religious significance for the young people who participated. Parents are urged to encourage their children to attend these services every Saturday morning. A background in this phase of religious activity is most beneficial to children in rounding out their knowledge and appreciation of Judaism.

Inasmuch as this sermon follows by only three days the recent Presidential election, there will be much significance to be found in Rabbi Steinberg's remarks.

Again as in the past, *Sabbath* Eve services will be enriched by the musical accompaniment furnished by Cantor Putterman with the able assistance of the choir, under the direction of Mr. Isadore Geller.

On Friday evening, November 12th at 8:30 p.m. Rabbi Kertzer will deliver the sermon. He will discuss the very complicated question of the separation of religion from the state. What will make the new Jewish state of Israel Jewish if not religion—the heart and core of Jewish culture? That being so, can there be any alternative to orthodoxy in the new Israel?

Supplementing the sermons to be delivered from the pulpit by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer during the coming year, will be a series of talks by prominent speakers as has been the custom in the past. This series will be sponsored by the Adult Education Committee. In addition, this committee will sponsor occasional symposia which will be held in the Vestry immediately following *Sabbath* Eve services.

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

*Sabbath* Eve ..... Friday, November 5th, 8:30 p.m.  
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach on

**"The Dilemma of the Liberal—Lessons from the Recent Election"**

*Sabbath* Eve ..... Friday, November 12th, 8:30 p.m.  
Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach on

**"Synagogue and State in the New Israel"**

*Sabbath* Morning ..... Saturday Mornings, 10:00 a.m.  
Junior Congregation Service at 10:00 a.m.

Musical portion of Service under direction of Cantor Putterman,  
assisted by choir. Mr. Isidore Geller at the organ.

Daily Evening Worship ..... 5:45 p.m.

## Will You Attend?

Jewish Book Fair under the sponsorship of The Parents' Association with the cooperation of the Sisterhood and School Board on November 15th, 16th and 17th.

Sisterhood meeting, Rabbi Milton Steinberg speaker, Tuesday, November 16th. Vestry, 1:30 p.m.

Parents' Association meeting, Wednesday, November 17th, Vestry, 8:30 p.m.



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## From The Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

I should like in this column to broach as a subject for discussion, if not immediate action, a proposal which has been germinating in me for many years. I wonder whether the time is not at hand for us to supplant our present method of seat assignments for the High Holydays with the free pew system whereunder members sit where they please.

Our prevailing procedure has long seemed to me ethically questionable. It makes financial resources the final criterion for nearness to or remoteness from the Ark—scarcely a relevant consideration in the house of God.

It is inequitable. I have always been distressed to observe those who come early to worship, generally the most devout and the most faithful in attendance all through the year, making their way to the remotest corners of our auditorium while vacancies, reserved for late-comers, yawn in the forepart of the Synagogue.

Our present arrangement works hardships, sometimes considerable hardships, compelling old and sick people to toil their way up balcony stairs, consigning the hard of hearing and near sighted to places from which they can neither see nor hear and, conversely I suppose, forcing many a shy person into a conspicuousness he would rather avoid, simply because having the ability and desire to pay dues in the higher brackets he is

automatically assigned to the forward pews.

Our present system is wasteful. Under it, since every seat is reserved, the number of tickets of admission cannot exceed the number of seats. But there are always some members absent from every service whose places in consequence go unused. These make a sizable number, as large, even on *Kol Nidre* night, as perhaps five to ten percent of the total. Given the free pew system we could reckon on absentees, issue tickets to, let us say, 105% of capacity and so put all our space to use. What is more this added 5% might well be assigned exclusively to the children of members, those young people who are too old for the Junior Congregation and too young for membership in their own right, a group which right now can fairly be characterized as the D.P.'s of our Synagogue.

Our present system is in part responsible for the only periods of disorder in our High Holyday worship. These fortunately are short-lived and infrequent, but they are profoundly disturbing nonetheless. They occur in the intervals just before the sermons, when late comers bustle to get into their seats, and just after, when those who came even later and were held up in the vestibule pour torrent-like down the aisles, each seeking his own place. But if all late comers were seated in the rear pews of the auditorium, balcony or vestry, their arrival would not so seriously disturb the devotions of those who come on time.

Again, our present system makes it impossible for family units to worship together. Parents and children may all have tickets, but to different parts of our Synagogue. As a result, they are separated just at the time when of all times they should be in the company of one another. Given the free pew system, that evil would be eliminated.

Finally, our present system has lost the only justification it ever had, its tie-up with our dues scale. Until this past year seating assignments and dues level went together. The larger the annual dues assumed by a member the more desirable the seating allocated to him. This condition, however, has ceased of late to prevail. Thanks to the recent reconstruction of our dues system, our members, with very few exceptions, now undertake annual commitments according to their means and altogether without relation to seating.

Our Board then need only press forward to draw into the new dues arrangement those who still stand aloof; it would also need to set up an Assessment Committee to work out equitable agreements with future new members. But in any case, no financial consideration remains any longer to argue against the free pew system.

Indisputably something will be lost in the change, notably the scene of rootedness and comfort deriving from having one's own assured and constant place. But this, while it is a ponderable factor, is far outweighed by the palpable gains, especially the moral gains, involved in the free pew system.

On that system I would put only one restriction. There are persons who by virtue of seniority in membership, learning, and special service to the congregation or community merit special consideration, including reserved seats in a prominent place. For such members—and they should be named by the Board of Trustees through a special committee—there might be set aside as Seats of Honor the lateral pews to either side of the pulpit. Such a departure has a warrant in the Jewish tradition; the *mizrach* pews, those nearest the Ark, having always belonged to the most learned and venerable of the community. These aside, the rest of the membership would be seated on the simple, sound, democratic and ethical principle of "first come, first served."

There is no urgency about this proposal. Even if adopted, it could not be implanted before next *Rosh Hashanah*, and it may be expedient to prolong the consideration of it even longer. But it is not too early to open the discussion. I invite the response of the congregation.

MILTON STEINBERG

## Parents' Association

(Continued from Page 1)

On Wednesday evening, November 17th the Parents' Association Meeting, which will be held in the Vestry, will also build its program around the Book Fair.

If you wish to place any orders for books with the group before or after the Book Fair please contact Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, Chairman of the Library Committee of the Parents' Association. Everyone is invited to attend this Book Fair, the first large-scale one held at the Park Avenue Synagogue.



## School Highlights

A new group has been added to the many organizations in the Park Avenue Synagogue. The latest is the *Bar Mitzvah* Group, which is open to all boys who celebrated their *Bar Mitzvah* in 1948. They will meet at breakfast on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. It is hoped that eventually, the group will be a Father and Son group. Among the charter members are Richard Beckman, Lonis Braus, George Glassman, Lewis Honig, Jack Kaplan, and Carl Seligson. For further information, all boys who believe they can qualify for the club are urged to contact Rabbi Kertzer, its adviser.

Students of the Religious School are aiding in the observation of Jewish Book Week which takes place during the week of November 15th. Posters advertising the Book Fair are being prepared by the children. Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, chairman of the committee has announced that prizes will be awarded for the best poster made by one of the younger children and similarly, a prize for a poster by one of the older children.

Parents are reminded that the Sunday sessions of the Religious School begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. Parents are urged to send their children to school on time. The youngster, who is consistently late to school, learns little; disturbs others; and, eventually, loses his respect for the school.

There is now a new development in the teaching at our Religious School. In the upper grades of the school, where there are two classes of the same grade, departmentalization is now being used. Each class will therefore have the benefit of being instructed in different phases of their work by two teachers, each of whom specializes either in History or Bible.

We wish to remind all parents that all students must enroll for instruction in Hebrew when they reach the age of ten. No student may celebrate his *Bar Mitzvah* or her *Bas Mitzvah* without having had three years of Hebrew instruction.

With the recent establishment of the Republic of Israel there has been a rebirth of Hebrew as a language for modern speech, thought and communication. Parents may be interested to know that at present there are over 3300 students studying modern Hebrew in the high schools and junior high schools of New York City.

## Adult Education Program; Home Study Courses

The Adult Education Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Harold Levin, is now making plans for the coming year which will feature the "home study" or "package" courses.

These "package" courses, which were successfully instituted last year, will enable 15 to 20 couples to meet in each others' homes for a series of vital discussions on a specified topic. This year, Mrs. Abraham Geller is aiding Mrs. Harold Starkman, Chairman of the Home Study Sub-committee, in setting up the various groups. It is hoped that everyone in the Congregation will be contacted and invited to join one of the courses. If, however, the members of the Committee miss your name, you are urged to contact Mrs. Geller or Mrs. Starkman for further information. Courses will probably begin sometime in November.

### Symposia Planned

One of the departures planned by the Adult Education Committee for the coming season is a series of Friday evening symposia. After a Friday evening service, the Congregants will adjourn to the Vestry for refreshments and a stimulating discussion. The first symposium planned will be on the topic of "Civil Rights and Legislative Investigations." Mr. Victor Herwitz, President of the Men's Club, who conducted the State Investigation into the New York City Welfare Department, and Mr. Philip Haberman, Jr., who conducted the investigation on communism in the City Colleges will be two of the speakers. Thus, the evening will bring us two experts in the field of legislative investigations. The exact date of this symposium will be made known in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

## Announce Appointments To Seminary Committee

Mr. Ben Sack, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, has announced two additional appointments to the Jewish Theological Seminary Committee of the Synagogue. Mr. Isaac Liberman will serve as Chairman of the committee, while Mr. Harold R. Starkman has been appointed its Co-chairman. The committee also includes Mr. Leon Finley, Mr. Archie Thurman, and Mr. Isadore M. Cohen.

## Sisterhood Speaks

The Sisterhood is pleased to announce that Rabbi Milton Steinberg will be the guest speaker at its next meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 16th at 1:30 p.m. His topic will be "People and Books—Four Relations, Four People." This program is being presented in connection with the Book Fair which is sponsored by the Sisterhood and the Parents' Association. Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer is Chairman of the Book Fair and the attendant Sisterhood meeting. There will be displays of current best sellers and books on Jewish subjects for adults and children. All the women of the Congregation are urged to attend this meeting and purchase books for birthdays, anniversaries and *Hanukkah*.

Mrs. Herman Weiss, a Sisterhood member, is conducting a class in Elementary Hebrew. All those interested are urged to contact the Synagogue office.

The S.O.S. drive of the Joint Distribution Committee is still in progress. Mrs. Louis Greenstein has announced that new or used layettes are badly needed. Anyone who has any articles to contribute is urged to notify the Synagogue office.

All Sisterhood members are asked to save Wednesday for Park Avenue Synagogue Day at the Home of the Jewish Blind. For further information please contact Mrs. Milton Sivek, Chairman of this project.

## Stress Z.O.A. Membership

With the State of Israel an accomplished fact, further steps must be taken to guard it against its enemies and foster its necessary growth. To this end a determined effort is being made to increase the membership of the Zionist Organization of America.

The Yorkville Zionist District extends a cordial invitation to members of the Park Avenue Synagogue to join with it. Inasmuch as Rabbi Steinberg is Honorary President and Rabbi Kertzer a Vice President of this organization, members of the Congregation will, thereby, have an added incentive to join.

Those persons interested in obtaining further particulars may communicate with Mr. Alexander E. Rosenthal, Chairman of Membership Committee at 206 East 23rd Street, New York 10, N. Y.



## Urgent Request Made By Israel Officials

According to a cable recently received from an official of the Israeli Provisional government, warm knitted goods are urgently needed by the Israeli Army and Navy.

With the approach of winter the text of the cable received has especial significance. "It is getting cold—expedite knitting—please!"

Mrs. Harold Osserman, chairman and Mrs. Dorothy Gellert acting as co-chairman, have undertaken the two-fold job of collecting money to buy the woolen yarn and of enlisting the efforts of experienced knitters who can turn out the socks, gloves and scarves which are needed. If they have not yet contacted you, please get in touch with them at the Synagogue any Wednesday.

Everyone is duty-bound to aid this project which will enable those who are fighting for the existence and growth of Israel to be warmly clothed during the winter.

Please do not let next Wednesday go by without contacting Mrs. Harold Osserman or Mrs. Dorothy Gellert.

## Young Marrieds Resume Meetings

Young Marrieds "B" held its initial meeting at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Morris Kertzer on Thursday evening, October 14th. An enjoyable evening took place and plans were formulated for the coming season.

This group of "Young Marrieds" decided to affiliate itself with the Adult Education Committee Home Study Group and plans to conduct a series of six lectures on current Jewish topics. These lectures are to be delivered by a group of Israelis, at present visiting in the United States.

Rabbi Kertzer and Mr. Jerry Oppenheimer have agreed to arrange the program series. Topics to be discussed will be announced at a future date.

Mr. Jerry Oppenheimer was elected treasurer of the group and Mrs. Harold E. Warshaw will carry on the secretarial duties.

The November 30th meeting will take place at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Fleischer.

## Junior League Activities: Open Meetings Planned

With the very successful Eternal Light dramatization on *Sukkoth* evening behind them, the Junior League is now looking forward to the activities of the next few months. First on the schedule is the Membership Tea-Dance to be held on Sunday, November 14th in the Vestry of the Synagogue. As was announced in the first issue of the BULLETIN this season, the Junior League is seeking to enlarge its membership, particularly from among the young people within the Congregation. Most of the young people, within the Junior League age limits, who answered the postcard enclosed with the first issue of the BULLETIN will be invited. This Tea-Dance is being planned to familiarize the young people of the Synagogue with the activities of the League. The affair, admission to which is by invitation only, is under the chairmanship of Mr. Marvin Cohen, chairman of the Membership committee, and Miss Marilyn Hittner, Co-chairman.

Rounding out the open events for 1948 will be a Thanksgiving Dance on Sunday afternoon, November 21st, a guest speaker on December 5th, and an evening of old-fashioned movies on December 19th.

Once again, the League expects to organize a Home-Study group in conjunction with the Committee on Adult Education's Home Study program. Mr. Louis I. Heller, Vice-President of the League, is in charge of this program and complete details will be announced at the next closed business meeting of the League on Wednesday evening, November 10th.

## New Young Marrieds Group Formed

A third Young Marrieds group, tentatively designated as Young Marrieds C met for a preliminary meeting at the home of Rabbi and Mrs. Kertzer on Oct. 28.

This group will consist of the younger young marrieds, or more specifically those who have been married in the past two years.

Any couples eligible for this group are asked to get in touch with Rabbi Kertzer. Present plans call for regular monthly meetings at one another's homes.

## Synagogue Extends Thanks

The Synagogue wishes to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dubin for their generosity in supplying all the fruits and vegetables which decorated the Synagogue *Succah* and which were placed on the altar for the *Sukkoth* holiday.

Our deep appreciation is also expressed to Messrs. Arthur and Edward Pollack for their decoration of the interior of the Ark for the High Holy Day Services.

We wish also to thank Mr. David Bielefeld for his supervision of the floral decorations for the holidays just passed.

The Congregation is also grateful to those members of the Junior Holiday Observance Committee, headed by Mrs. George Heyman, who assisted the Sisterhood Committee in preparing the *Succah*. The members of the same committee are also to be commended for taking charge of distributing the *Simchah Torah* delights to the children who attended the Consecration Service.

## Anniversary

Our congratulations to Cantor and Mrs. David Putterman who celebrated their twenty-first anniversary on November first.

## Birthdays

Our best wishes to Mr. Charles Weill who celebrated his eighty-first birthday on October twenty-fifth. Our best wishes also to Mrs. Hattie Weinberger who will celebrate her seventy-fifth birthday on November sixteenth.

### THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE

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